



Scene from "The Smile of Promise"

Famous Women of History before the Temple of Learning

The Wesleyan Alumnae

Centennial Year

August

1936

THE WESLEYAN ALUMNAE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF WESLEYAN COLLEGE
MACON, GA.

NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST

Subscription Price, \$1.00 per year

Entered as second-class matter February 12, 1925, at the Post Office at Macon, Georgia,
under the Act of March 3, 1879

Executive Secretary:
Jennie Loyall, '12

Vol. XII, No. 3, AUGUST

Editor Alumnae Magazine:
Eunice Thomson, '25



Signing of the Charter

Signing The Charter

●

The Centennial Pageant reached its climax in the signing of the charter for the first college for women. Left to right: Alexander Stephens Weaver as his distinguished ancestor, Alexander H. Stephens who championed the charter; McKibben Lane as a legislator of 1836; Dr. Dice R. Anderson, president of Wesleyan, as Governor William Schley in 1836; Roy Domingos, great grandson of Dr. W. C. Bass as the clerk of the House.

An Act

To incorporate the Georgia Female College located in the city of Macon.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That James O. Andrews, Samuel K. Hodges, John W. Tally, Ignatius P. Williams, William S. Parks, Lovick Pierce, William Arnold, Alexander Spear, Thomas W. George W. S. Pierce, Elijah Sinclair, Henry G. Lamar, Jerry Bowles, Robert George Jewett, Ossian Gregory, Everard Hamilton, Henry Solomon, Augustus Walter T. Colquitt and James A. Norbit and their successors in office be and they are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of the "Georgia Female College"

Sec 2nd And be it further enacted, That the President of the College, by and with the consent of the trustees, shall have power to confer all such honors, degrees, and licences as are usually conferred in college or universities, and shall preside at all meetings of the trustees and at the public exercises of the College.

Joseph Day
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Robert M. Echols
President of the Senate

Assented to 23rd Dec^r 1835

William Schley
Governor

librarian of Phi Mu and alumnae trustee of Wesleyan, and presented as Phi Mu's centennial gift the lovely gateway erected at the entrance of the Wesleyan campus.

President Dice R. Anderson accepted the gifts for the college.

Pictures of the fountain and gateway appeared on the printed program. (The attractive programs for this occasion were the gift of Anne (Bates) Haden, president.)

Wives of the presidents of Wesleyan were hostesses for this alumnae gathering, and great granddaughters of Wesleyan alumnae were ushers.

From far-away China there came a cablegram just before this meeting from the Soong sisters, E-ling (Madame H. H. Kung), Chung-ling (Madame Sun Yat Sen) and Mei-ling (Madame Chiang Kai-Shek) as follows:

"It is with great regret that we have to forego the pleasure of attending the 100th anniversary of our beloved Alma Mater. To those who participate in the celebration, we send hearty congratulations. We who had the privilege of graduating from Wesleyan College look back with joy and gratitude upon those days of academic life at our Alma Mater. To her we are indebted for the lofty ideals which have contributed to the richness of our experience and for our lives of greater tasks and responsibility in society. It is even more gratifying to recall that as the first college to grant academic degrees to women, Wesleyan led all other colleges in America in giving new recognition to the intellectual equality of women. Daughters of Wesleyan far and wide may justly take pride in celebrating May 30th the centennial of their Alma Mater. May she continue to grow and prosper."

At the close of the meeting Jennie Loyall, Alumnae Secretary, was presented with a handsome silver bowl from the Executive Committee of the Association and the Alumnae Trustees as an expression of appreciation. Jennie Loyall begins next fall her twelfth year as Executive Secretary.

The Luncheon

The Alumnae Luncheon on Saturday morning at Wesleyan Conservatory was an informal "get-together" of reunioners. The dining room, where the luncheon was served

"al fresco style" was beautifully decorated in garden flowers (several truck-loads of these coming from "Porterfield", the country home of Mr. James H. Porter of the Wesleyan Board of Trustees).

Tables were arranged in the shape of a "W" for Wesleyan, and alumnae sat in groups along the broad verandas of the old college buildings, enjoying the delicious lunch as they exchanged stories of their college days.

Luncheon for Honor Guests

Honoring Mrs. Lucille Foster McMillin of Washington, speaker for the Alumnae Meeting, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Coleman gave a luncheon at their home, guests including officers of the Alumnae Association, of the Alpha Delta Pi and Phi Mu sororities, alumnae trustees.

A cake which was a miniature model of the original Wesleyan building, formed the centerpiece.

"The Smile of Promise"

The afternoon of the pageant, "The Smile of Promise", based on a speech by Daniel Chandler in 1835, was cloudless and comfortably cool. The Wesleyan campus at Rivoli never looked lovelier, with the spring green of its grass and shrubs, the ivy that has climbed to the tops of the new buildings, the darker green of its woodland background.

The late afternoon sun cast a soft glow on the white "Temple of Learning" erected on the campus as a setting for the pageant (many people believed that it was of white marble), the pediment above its columns with Grecian figures in color.

Thousands of spectators were ranged on the campus, on the terraces, on the porches of nearby buildings. Police estimated the number of cars at 5,000.

The pageant itself had as its theme the quaint and delightful speech on "Female Education" delivered at the University of Georgia in 1835 by Daniel Chandler, a brilliant young lawyer. In this speech Jennie Loyall, Alumnae Secretary, saw the story of the pageant and the prophecy of Wesleyan's founding and made the adaptation of the speech for dramatization.



Prominent Alpha Delta Pi's before the fountain which the organization gave to Wesleyan as a Centennial gift. At the left are, front: Minnie (Bass) Burden, Dorothy (Blount) Lamar; back, Kathleen (Holder) Griffin, Mrs. Joseph Hubbard, national president.

At the right are: Mrs. Nelms of Atlanta, Pearl (Napier) O'Daniel, Stella (Hunt) King, Dessa (Hays) Asher.

Dorothy (Blount) Lamar as Narrator read the words of Chandler himself which told, as the drama unfolded, the longing of woman for education in 1835, the brilliant women of history who proved that women could learn, the struggle against custom, science, and wealth who closed the door of learning to woman, the final triumph, which Chandler foresaw in 1835 and which came to pass in 1836 in the chartering of Wesleyan. Every word was well-modulated and audible even to the farthest listener.

The entire pageant moved swiftly and dramatically to a climax; the action perfectly timed throughout. Miss Ernestine Grote, head of the physical education department of Wesleyan, was in charge of the staging. She was assisted by the staff of the department, by Mr. Douglas Hume of Wesleyan Conservatory and Nelle (Edwards) Smith, by Annabel Horn as scenario writer, Mr. Edward Shorter as art director, Prof. Joseph Maerz as music director, and by many other directors of the eleven Episodes, architects,

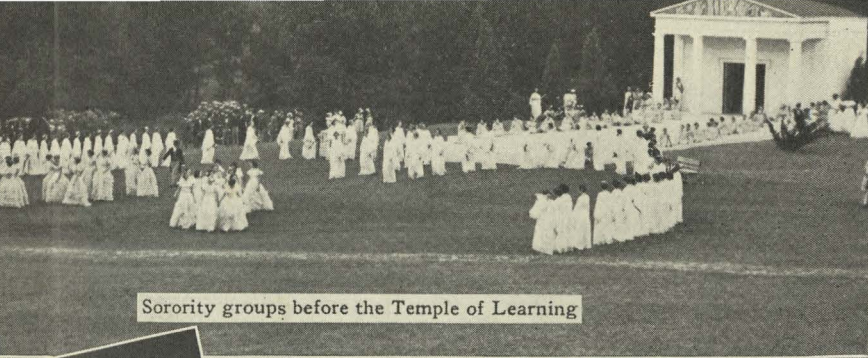
costume chairmen, and superintendents of construction whose names appear on the printed program.

The opening dance of the pageant, the Dance of Ignorance, was an artistic original portrayal of the unhappy state of woman in 1835 in education. The music for this dance was the slow March Slav by Tschaikowsky.

Many distinguished guests came to Wesleyan to take part in the scene of the "61 Colleges" mentioned by Chandler as being in existence in 1835—"not one—be it said to the disgrace of the nation—dedicated to the cause of female education!" Representatives of these colleges, appointed by the college presidents, appeared in academic dress.

The two Societies before which Chandler made his speech were represented in the procession, Phi Kappa by Howard A. Perry, Jr., and Demosthenean by Walter Wise.

Symbolic figures of Custom, Science, Wealth, Learning, Power and Legislation scorned the symbolic Dream of Women's



Sorority groups before the Temple of Learning



Sarah Louise Turner, great-great-granddaughter of Wesleyan's first president



Laleah Adams Sullivan, granddaughter of Annie (Winn) Adams, in a copy of her grandmother's 1869 dress



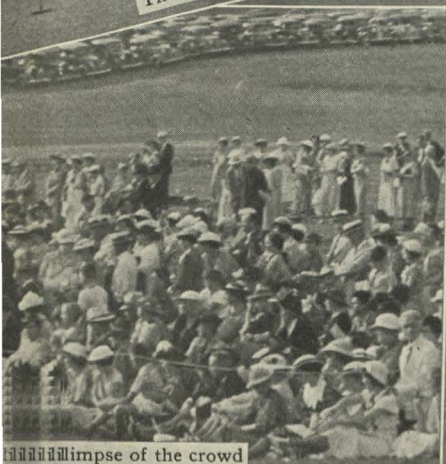
Clara (J. Watson and (Drane) B. dresses of t



The First Grad



The "First Alumnae Association"



Glimpse of the crowd



Nonie (Acree) Quillian in 1909 (picture taken in her recital dress)



Mamie (Rowland) C. her "second-day" dr Mary Pearl (Chance (Burton) Cates; Mi



(Patten)
and Minnie
Bullock in
of the 1870's



The Dance of Triumph



graduates—1840



Patricia Childs in a
costume of the 1860's



Ruth
ding d



Sidney Lanier with "The



hance in a copy of
ess of the 1880's;
e) Hopkins; Sue
nnie (Jones) Cox



Anne Bethune in her
mother's wedding
dress of 1907



Annie (Bates) H
nae Association.

Education, and the Dance of Scorn was a striking contrast to the Dance of Ignorance, the dancers in the latter being dressed in bright satin, crimson, green, midnight blue, purple and white.

Following this the "Famous Women of History" entered in brilliant costumes with their attendants. These parts were taken by women of the families of Wesleyan's presidents. (The picture on the cover of this magazine shows the group of "Famous Women".)

The granting of Wesleyan's charter and the triumphant entry of the symbolic figure of the college were thrilling scenes! The last quotation from Chandler's speech rang clearly and joyously:

"I see the smile of promise! I hear the voice of encouragement! Soon the sun of science will pour his dazzling splendors upon the female mind! Visions of bliss!"

Members of the Legislature were represented by descendants of these leaders and of honored founders of the college.

A Dance of Hope introduced the next Episodes, which were outstanding scenes in the history of Wesleyan.

Granddaughters and great granddaughters of the earliest Wesleyan girls took the part of the demure "First Graduates" in their old-fashioned white dresses. Early Adelpheans entered with Sidney Lanier who appeared on one of their 1868 programs. (Lanier's grandson, Sterling Lanier, represented the poet and carried his grandfather's own flute). Early Philomatheans were dressed in pink dresses with the lovely full skirts of the 1850's.

The most spectacular scene of the entire pageant was this sorority scene. "Wesleyan", portrayed by Linda (Anderson) Lane, stood at the doorway of the Temple of Learning in her white dress and flowing purple cloak. Ranged on the long flight of steps were her attendants in lavender. On the grass before the steps the Adelpheans in blue stood on one side of the Temple, the Philomatheans on the other in pink. Then the representatives of the active chapters of Alpha Delta Pi and Phi Mu entered, fifty-five of each, in white silk robes, made Grecian style, the former bordered in blue, the latter in pink. They carried the colors of the colleges where chapters are located.

The First Alumnae Association was staged by the Atlanta Wesleyan Club. Twenty alumnae represented the charter members of the first Alumnae Association in the world, founded at Wesleyan in 1859. Every detail of their costumes, even to their handbags, was authentic for the period.

The Dance of Triumph was beautifully executed by Wesleyan girls in bright yellow costumes.

The final Episode was the colorful "Procession of the Years" in which over three hundred alumnae took part. In this Episode were many handsome old costumes of every year since Wesleyan's founding. Alumnae came from sixteen different states to take part in this celebration of Wesleyan's centennial.

In every heart as the crowd dispersed there was a deep feeling of reverence for the glories of Wesleyan's past; in every alumnae heart a thrill of pride and a confident assurance for the future of the "Mother of Colleges".

Pageant Programs

Attractive programs of the Wesleyan Centennial Pageant were on sale May 30th. With covers in two colors, six illustrations (of the author of the pageant, of Linda (Anderson) Lane as "Wesleyan", and of the college buildings throughout the years), the story of the pageant by episodes, and the complete cast of characters, these programs make a valuable souvenir of the occasion for alumnae who were unable to be present as well as for those who saw the pageant.

Copies may be secured through The Alumnae Office for 25 cents, which includes the cost of mailing.

Morning Watch

Alumnae Morning Watch, held immediately after breakfast on Sunday at the conservatory, was led by Nonie (Acree) Quillian of the class of '09, wife of Dr. W. F. Quillian, former president of the college. The Morning Watch service is an annual Commencement custom, this year attended by an unusually large group which gathered to hear Mrs. Quillian's excellent talk on "Living Adventurously". Frances Townsend, a member of the junior class at Wesleyan, sang.



Phi Mu group before the gateway which was the national organization organization's Centennial gift to Wesleyan. Left to right: Mr. Samuel T. Coleman, Edith (Stetson) Coleman, Sallie Boone (president Macon chapter of Phi Mu), Lila May Chapman (national librarian), Johnnie (Logan) Lewis, Mary B. Merritt (national president), Gladys (O'Neal) Adams, and Dr. Dice R. Anderson, president of Wesleyan.

Baccalaureate Sermon

The churches of Macon joined on Sunday morning in the services of Wesleyan's Centennial, and Mercer University held its Commencement service in the evening in order that the students and faculty of the institution might worship with Wesleyan.

A congregation of 4,000 persons of all denominations gathered in the city auditorium to hear Bishop William Fraser McDowell of Washington, D. C. as he delivered the baccalaureate sermon.

Preceding the sermon an interdenominational choir of 75 voices sang two choruses from Gounod's "Gallia", with Mary Wes Craig as soloist and Doris Onderdonk Jelks as organist and director. Mary Wes Craig sang as a solo "The Lord's Prayer", her beautiful soprano voice clear and moving in the great auditorium.

Bishop McDowell's message was simple and direct, and was thought by many who heard him in person and over the radio to be one of most powerful baccalaureate sermons ever heard in Macon.

Dr. J. P. Boone of the First Baptist Church, asked the invocation and Rev. Albert G. Harris of the First Presbyterian Church pronounced the benediction.

Graduation Exercises

The Centennial Commencement closed Monday morning with the graduation exercises in the historic Wesleyan chapel, built in 1860, with Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, chancellor of New York University, as the speaker. His message was one of hope and optimism for the future into which the graduates were going.

As the 46 seniors entered the chapel for the last time the bell in the tower was rung 100 times by two of the college servants who have been in the employ of Wesleyan for many years. This bell is one which replaced the original Wesleyan bell during the War Between the States.

During the exercises Dr. Anderson read an air mail letter from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who wrote on his



A view of the room in which the exhibit of "Souvenirs of old Wesleyan Days" was on display during Commencement. Under the Alumnae Historical Commission this interesting collection of mementoes of other times at Wesleyan was assembled, many of them being given to the permanent collection of the college.

own volition to congratulate the college on its hundredth anniversary:

"Nations measure their span of life by centuries rather than by years. When a country is a hundred years old it is still very young. Similarly, those institutions which the people set up to assure stability and progress of a nation measure their span of life by centuries. Georgia Wesleyan College which is now celebrating its hundredth birthday is still young. While it is to be congratulated on the great achievements of its past it is to be felicitated even more on the opportunities for service in the centuries ahead. May I congratulate the officers, the faculty, and the students of Wesleyan College. May you find in your heritage not only satisfaction but also inspiration to even greater future service."

Alumnae Financial Statement

The expense of the Centennial Commencement, above that which is usually incurred for an ordinary commencement occasion, was taken care of entirely by the alumnae of Wesleyan through The Loyalty Fund and the contributions of clubs. Besides this the Alumnae Association turned over to the college for scholarships for next year the sum of \$1,500 in addition to other scholarships

administered by individual clubs. The November alumnae magazine will carry the Loyalty Fund totals by classes and number of contributors in each class.

The Atlanta Club generously donated the funds necessary to pay for the film of "The Smile of Promise" which becomes the property of the college and will be used for publicity and kept as a permanent record of the Centennial. This ten-minute film shows the high-lights of the pageant and accompanied by words and music giving the story, was made possible through the Atlanta Club and the generosity of Mr. C. D. Beeland of the Strickland Industrial Film Corporation, whose mother, Nannie (Carmichael) Beeland, is a Wesleyan alumna. Honoring her, Mr. Beeland gave his services in making the film.

Honoring Mrs. Burks

A gift of Wesleyan plates for use on state occasions at the college is sponsored by Winifred (Rawlings) Gilmore, in memory of Mrs. Burks. The plates will have a special inscription on the back stating this fact; \$2.00 pays for one plate plus engraving.

Two dozen plates have been given. Alumnae who wish to have a part in this memorial may send contributions to Mrs. T. W. Gilmore, Sandersville, Ga.



In the Georgia Room of the Library was an exhibit of pictorial and documentary material pertaining to Wesleyan's founders, trustees, benefactors, faculty and presidents. This exhibit under the direction of the librarians, together with the exhibit of alumnae history which was in the room just opposite, gave the visitor a vivid picture of Wesleyan's past.

Echoes From The Centennial Commencement

If you live in Georgia or anywhere nearby, you have heard hundreds of comments such as those which follow about the Wesleyan Centennial Commencement. If you are far away, you will be pleased to know that it has been a most widely and enthusiastically discussed occasion.

Not only the alumnae, who came to "look back on time with kindly eyes", but all the host of the "learned and the curious, the grave and the gay, the humble and the distinguished" who were present went away with a feeling of admiration.

One of the spectators remarked upon the very thing which has always seemed to us one of Wesleyan's chief charms, during the centennial year or any other—the deep loyalty of Wesleyan's older alumnae, the grand-

mothers of Wesleyan girls of today. Only let the college say, "I need a procession of alumnae in costume" and out come the treasured old silk wedding and "second-day" dresses, and to the college come the sweet, white-haired throng, with steps not quite so firm but hearts as loyal as ever. (It is not every college, mind you, that can boast of alumnae through five generations. That is the very special privilege of the oldest, and Wesleyan is proud of it!)

At the Alumnae meeting Saturday morning a telegram of greeting came to the college from the oldest living graduate, Gabriella (Harrison) deJarnette, A.B. '62, of Washington, D. C. Seventy-six years since she received her diploma on the chapel stage where the message was read!

"I think that the pageant Saturday afternoon was perfectly wonderful; it will mean much to the future of Wesleyan."—*William D. Anderson, Trustee.*

"My stay in Macon was interesting and charming, and I think I never enjoyed speaking more than I did there; the audience was so responsive and kind."—*Lucille Foster McMillin, Civil Service Commissioner.*

"I was so impressed not only with the loveliness of the pageant but also with the entire thought behind it that I am sending Dean Hawkes of my university the literature about it. I had no idea that we were honored in having the first college for women in the world in Georgia."—*H. Irving Schweppe of Atlanta, Representative of Columbia University in scene of "61 Colleges".*

"I appreciate greatly the privilege of having a part in the Wesleyan centennial and the results are indicative of the fine piece of work you are doing. Whenever I pass Wesleyan now I will have an even greater interest than before."—*Mary B. Merritt, Coral Gables, Fla., National President of Phi Mu.*

"The pageant was simply marvelous and stupendous! How beautiful it was! I was only sorry we didn't have an airplane view of all those cars and the colorful crowd scattered all over that beautiful expanse of green. The pageant itself was much more wonderful than anybody had dreamed. I heard favorable comments all around me—of the idea represented and the beautiful way it was executed. But in fact the whole of Commencement bore evidence of much planning and everything went off simply swell. Didn't we have a grand crowd? I saw people I haven't seen in twenty years."—*Kathleen (Holder) Griffin, Vice-President in charge of Wesleyan Clubs.*

"Mrs. Steinhäuser and I want to extend heartiest congratulations upon the splendid Centennial celebration last Saturday afternoon. It was indeed the finest exhibition of educational history it has ever been my pleasure to witness. I have attended several such events, but the one held at Wesleyan far exceeds them all. You have a most excellent plant and one that the whole educational world should be proud of."—*Dr. Walter P. Steinhäuser, Atlanta, Ga., Representative of Shurtleff College in scene of "61 Colleges".*

"I am still thrilling over the wonderful Commencement week-end at Wesleyan. It was a wonderful experience and I regret that any of the old girls had to miss it."—*Nell (Bates) Penland, Waycross, Ga.*

"Everybody says that the pageant was the prettiest thing ever seen in Georgia."—*Dr. W. D. Hooper, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.*

"I had such a good time at Wesleyan that I feel I should write a large capitalized and underscored *THANK YOU*. As someone said of the crowd that was there—"it wasn't a success—it was a mob'.

"The pageant was truly a lovely thing—far more beautiful than I had anticipated, and I just wish that I had drummed up another hundred or so of my friends to enjoy it. I'll never forget that sorority scene, and the whole thing will always be a thrilling memory."—*Margaret Richards, Atlanta, Ga.*

"Tomorrow in Macon, Georgia, Wesleyan College, oldest chartered college in the world exclusively for women, holds its centennial. A pageant dramatizing the college's history will be enacted on a modern campus by more than a thousand persons, many of whom represent the fifth generation at Wesleyan."—*Opening sentences of an article in The New York Times.*

"Mrs. McMillin—a charming speaker and a charming person with her attractive manner and sparkling, big brown eyes."—*Blythe McKay, in The Macon News and Telegraph, June 7.*

"Lovely Mary Wes Craig, soprano, came home from New York to sing last night. She was introduced as 'Inky', her nickname of Wesleyan days 'because she was always getting ink all over herself and everybody around her'. It was hard to believe that when she appeared in stiff white satin and lace as a girl of the 1840's, her dark hair in rolls and curls over her shoulder."—*From "The Staff Gadder", Macon Telegraph and News, May 31.*

"All friends of Wesleyan—and they are legion—are happy with her today over her hundred years of brilliant progress, and look back with real joy over the century of service to womankind that this great institution has rendered. Furthermore, the centennial pageant was well named 'The Smile of Promise'."—*From editorial in The Columbus Enquirer-Sun, May 31, 1936.*



The Period Dolls in the Historical Exhibit

These dolls were dressed by Mrs. Earl Dasher and Mrs. Noble Jones of Savannah to represent Wesleyan girls of the years since the college was founded. Left to right, they show the costumes for the years 1839, 1854, 1863, 1874, 1878, 1840, 1884, 1890, 1906, 1910, 1919.



The Character Dolls

Martha (Riley) Holiday dressed these dolls, with the exception of the third, which was dressed by Mrs. Dasher and Mrs. Jones.

The demure miss on the left is a Wesleyan girl of 1840 in the "winter uniform" described in one of the earliest Wesleyan catalogs—"a purple merino or circassian dress with plain linen collar or dimity band; leghorn or straw bonnet trimmed with dark striped ribbon". On the extreme right is the "summer uniform"—"a dress of white, with cape of the same material, or plain collar; bonnet trimmed with sky blue."

The other dolls, left to right, represent: Susie (Derry) Parker, the daughter of Prof. Joseph Derry, on the date of her graduation and wedding, 1883, the dress a white dotted swiss, trimmed with elaborate tucks and lace; Fannie (Myers) Hitch, '68, in the blue silk traveling dress in which she was married in the Adelphean Hall when her father was president of the college; Mary Day Lanier, who was courted in the Wesleyan parlors by Sidney Lanier while her family were refugees there during the War; Alice Culler Cobb, beloved teacher at Wesleyan, ready for church in her lavender silk which friends remember so well; Minnie (Bass) Burden in her white cashmere wedding dress of 1880 in which she married in the Adelphean Hall while her father was president (Mrs. Burden is wearing the original dress in the picture on page 3. This is an exact reproduction of dress and accessories, even to the real lace handkerchief and butterfly and pin in her hair); Ria (Weaver) Burks, with her fan and class roll-book. She wears a "dicky" about her neck.

The dolls are authentic in every detail, even to the hand-tucks in the petticoats of those representing the years before sewing machines.



It Is Not Yet Too Late

To get Wesleyan Commemorative plates with the Centennial legend on the back—"Centennial Year—1836-1936".

The plates, made by the Wedgwood Company in Etruria, England, may be had with centers of any of five colors (Rose Pink, Staffordshire Blue, Green, Old Mulberry, and Black) and any of three Wesleyan scenes (the Original Building, The Towers of Old Wesleyan, the Candler Memorial Library).

Prices: \$1.50 per plate, or \$18.00 per dozen for dinner or service size (10½ inches in diameter; \$1.50 per plate, or \$16.00 per dozen for salad or dessert size (9 inches in diameter, Express extra).

Wesleyan plates make excellent wedding, birthday, or Christmas gifts for Wesleyan alumnae.

SEND YOUR ORDER TO THE ALUMNAE OFFICE

Please reserve for me..... Wesleyan commemorative plates.

Size..... Color..... Center.....

(Colors or centers may be mixed in a set of plates. A deposit of \$5.00 on a dozen, 50 cents on a single plate is required at the time of ordering, the balance to be paid when plates are ready for delivery).

Amount deposited:

Signed:

Name

Address